



Ninety-Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2005
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 572

Chairperson: Patrick J. Bourne
Committee: Judiciary
Date of Hearing: February 16, 2005

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 572 would set up a Task Force to study the Department of Correctional Services by:

- 1) Assessing the current structure and mission of the Department of Correctional Services including their statutory directive
- 2) Reviewing the growth and viability of the mission-related duties of the Department of Correctional Services as they relate to the department's work capacity
- 3) Reviewing the utilization, effectiveness, and cost of current inmate programming and treatment services
- 4) Reviewing the growth in the Department of Correctional Services budget over the past 10 years, including changes in staffing, institutions, programming and private contracting
- 5) Examining the Department's cost per offender and comparing it to other states
- 6) Reviewing the practice of national accreditation
- 7) Reviewing any promising mental health, substance abuse, vocational or educational programs implemented by other jurisdictions with respect to their correctional agencies.

The Task Force would be made up of the Director of the Department of Correctional Services, the Director of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, the Chairperson of the Community Corrections Council, the Parole Administrator, the Chairperson of the Board of Parole or their designees; two members of the Legislature, two representatives from the Nebraska Association of Public Employees (NAPE) employed by the Department of Correctional Services, two persons working in post-release programs with inmates, and two members of the general public. The Executive Board will choose the chairperson of the Task Force. Appointments to the Task Force will be made no later than June 15, 2005. Under the terms of the bill, the Task Force is charged with preparing a report on or before December 15, 2005, for presentation to the Legislature and the Governor. The College of Public Affairs and Community Service at the University of Nebraska at Omaha will provide administrative support for the study. The Task Force will cease to exist on March 1, 2006.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Dwite Pedersen